CLASSIFICATION

COMPUDITETAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION FROM

REPORT

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIG FROADCASTS CD NO

COUNTRY

SUBJECT

Albania

Tirana

Economic - Agriculture

DATE OF INFORMATION

1950

HOW

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PUBLISHED

Daily newspapers

DATE DIST. 3 Apr 1950

WHERE

PUBLISHED

NO. OF PAGES

PUBLISHED

27 Jan - 11 Feb 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE Albanian

REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Newspapers as indicated.

MORE HECTARES SOWN IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

212,083 HECTARES TO BE PLANTED THIS YEAR -- Bashkimi, No 1601, 11 Feb 50

Tirana -- The plan for the spring planting drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry calls for the planting of 212,083 hectares of land this year, or 28,000 hectares more than were planted in the spring of 1948.

Of this total, 147,680 hectares, or 3,641 hectares more than last year, will be planted in cereals; 32,900 hectares, or 8,750 more, in industrial plants; 13,279 hectares, or 6,798 more, in vegetables, including potatoes; and 18,223.5 hectares, or 8,831 more, in fodder crops.

In addition to this area, all land last fall which could not be planted because of weather conditions will be planted this spring.

In accordance with the emphasis of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers' Party, increasing stress will be placed this year upon the planting of industrial plants, especially cotton, sugar beets, and tobacco. Thus, for example, 15,500 hectares instead of last year's 10,650 hectares will be planted in cotton, and 6,000 hectares will be planted in tobacco instead of 3,700.

The Ministry of Agriculture is giving substantial aid to farmers who plant industrial crops. More qualified technicians will be sent to the areas best suited for raising such crops, to give theoretical and practical help. During the spring planting campaign, the Ministry will distribute 11,250 quintals of chemical fertiliner and 23,523 quintals of selected, disinfected, and sifted seed. The state atores will offer for sale 23 corn-planting machines, 250 harrows, 21 disks, and 2,550 plows.

More motor-driven machinery will be available through the machine-tractor stations this year than in 1949.

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- 1 -

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194,987 FRUIT TREES PLANTED -- Bashkimi, No 1600, 10 Feb 50

Tirana -- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry reports that by 31 January 1950, 194,987 of the 395,300 fruit trees scheduled to be planted during the 1949-50 agricultural year had been planted. Of the total planted, 178,637 were planted by the private and cooperative sectors and the rest by the state cooperative sector. Most of the trees planted were obtained from state nurseries.

The best results were achieved in the Elbasan district, where 50,879 instead of the planned 30,000 fruit trees were planted; in the Sarande district, where 14,190 trees or 4,190 more than the planned number, were planted; and in the Kuke district, where 5,200, or 2,200 more than the planned number, were planted.

Besides the fruit trees, 30,129 olive trees of the 102,000 to be planted this year were planted in Albania during the same period. The necessary preparations have been made for planting the 1,370,000 grape vines that have arrived from Bulgaria and that are to be planted this spring.

MORE LIVESTOCK ON COOPERATIVE FARMS -- Zeri i Popullit, No 23, 27 Jan 50

Great emphasis was placed on livestock raising on agricultural cooperatives in 1949. New and modern barns were built; clover and alfalfa were planted; and selective breeding and veterinary services were emphasized.

In 1948, there were only 115 head of cattle on agricultural /I.e., farming, as opposed to livestock/ cooperatives, as compared with 389 in 1949; 3,785 sheep in 1948 and 6,127 in 1949; 60 sows in 1948 and 675 in 1949; 175 horses in 1948 and 233 in 1949; and 87 beehives in 1948 and 139 in 1949.

Last year, the agricultural cooperatives received from the state, on credit, 4,437 goats, 1,500 sheep, 186 cows, 25 heifers, 14 calves, and 73 bulls.

TRACTORS REPLACE PRIMITIVE PLOWS -- Zeri i Popullit, No 23, 27 Jan 50

On many Albanian agricultural cooperatives, iron plows have replaced wooden plows, and tractors have taken the place of draft animals. In 1949, agricultural cooperatives, with the help of machine-tractor stations, plowed 2,100 hectares of land with tractors.

This year, the cooperatives will sign contracts with the machine-tractor stations to plow a much greater area than last year.

Altogether, the agricultural cooperatives in Albania today have a total of 2 tractors, 15 planting machines, 26 grain mowers, 13 hay mowers, 36 horse-drawn grain threshers, 36 grain grinders, 10 corn huskers, 13 sifters, and 12 motor-driven pumps for irrigation.

TO DISTRIBUTE MODERN BEEHIVES -- Bashkimi, No 1600, 10 Feb 50

Korce -- Despite the increasing interest in bee-keeping in the Korce district, and especially in the mountains at Opar, Morave, and Vith-Kuq, it has not been possible in recent years to obtain enough modern beehives to meet all requirements.

This year, 1,140 modern hives have been obtained and will be distributed soon.

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- 2 -

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